



DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

270 Washington St., S.W., Suite 1-156
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-8400

Greg S. Griffin
STATE AUDITOR
(404) 656-2174

July 21, 2021

Honorable Alan Powell
Chairman, House Regulated Industries
613 Coverdell Legislative Office Bldg.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
House Bill 430 (LC 33 8840S)

Dear Chairman Powell:

The bill would provide for five licenses for advanced practice registered nurses (APRN). Currently, APRNs can only be recognized through authorization, not licensure, by the Georgia Board of Nursing. The bill makes engaging in the practice of nursing as an APRN without a valid, current license a misdemeanor and allows APRNs to sign an affidavit allowing a person with a disability to obtain a special vehicle decal. Finally, the bill provides the board with the authority to require applicants to provide workforce data when issuing or renewing licenses.

Impact on State Expenditures

The Office of the Secretary of State (SOS) would incur additional one-time and ongoing expenses resulting from the bill. One-time expenditures of \$266,000 are largely related to information system changes and temporary personnel. Ongoing, annual expenditures of approximately \$124,000 would be incurred for two additional personnel. See Table 1 on the following page for details.

- *One-Time Expenditures* – Much of the one-time charges are related to the vendor cost for adding five APRN licensing types to the system. The estimate is \$30,000 per license but could be slightly less. SOS anticipates the need for three temporary personnel to process additional APRN license applications in the short-term. Other charges related to specifically to the new license types include the website, the interface with NURSIS (national database for credential verification), and rulemaking. SOS estimated up to \$5,000 for information system changes to add a workforce survey to the registration process, as allowed by Section 3-1 of the bill.

- Annual Expenditures* – Annual costs would be incurred for an additional investigator and analyst. The investigator will address what is expected to be more complex complaints associated with the APRN scope of work. SOS will also require an analyst to process the additional applications resulting from the bill. Because APRN applicants must also apply for an RN license, the number of unique applications submitted by these individuals is expected to double. Approximately 18,000 nurses have the APRN designation currently. While the bill will result in additional licenses being issued (RN and APRN), it will not necessarily lead to an increase in the number of individuals licensed by the Board of Nursing.

Table 1. Additional Costs for SOS

One-Time Expenditures	Amount
Licensing System – New Licenses	\$150,000
Temporary Employees for Application Demand	\$90,000
Website	\$8,500
NURSYS Interface	\$7,500
Rulemaking	\$5,000
Licensing System – Workforce Data Collection	\$5,000
Total One-Time Expenditures	\$266,000

Annual Expenditures	Amount
Investigator	\$75,000
Analyst	\$49,000
Total Annual Expenditures	\$124,000

Impact on State Revenue

The APRN licenses will also result in additional state revenue. Based on the number of licensees with an APRN designation, we estimate additional revenue of \$75,000 annually for new licensees and approximately \$585,000 for annual renewals. A license is renewed biennially.

Sincerely,



Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor



Kelly Farr, Director
Office of Planning and Budget